REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 22-24 are amended. Claims 1-21 and 29-55 are canceled without prejudice. New claims 57-70 are added. Claims 22-28 and 56-70 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 56 stands allowed.

Claim 24 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 24 has been amended to incorporate the elements of its base claim (claim 21). Claims 25-28 depend from claim 24. Claims 22 and 23 have been amended to depend from claim 24 rather than claim 21. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 22-28 are in condition for allowance.

Objections

Claim 23 was objected to, suggesting that "computer" at line 1 should be changed to "computers". Claim 23 has been amended to incorporate this suggestion.

New Claims

New claims 57-70 are added.

New claims 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, and 63 are similar to claims 24, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, and 28, respectively. However, claims 57-63 are directed to one or

more computer-readable media whereas claims 22-28 are directed to methods. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, and 63 are allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claims 24, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, and 28, respectively.

New claims 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, and 70 are similar to claims 24, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, and 28, respectively. However, claims 64-70 are directed to computers whereas claims 22-28 are directed to methods. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, and 70 are allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claims 24, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, and 28, respectively.

35 U.S.C. §102, §103, and §112

As part of this Response, the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102, 35 U.S.C. §103, and 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph have either been canceled or amended to depend from an allowable claim. These cancellations and amendments have been made in order to expedite issuance of the allowed and allowable claims. These cancellations and amendments have not been made to overcome, and should not be interpreted as having been made to overcome, the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102, 35 U.S.C. §103, and 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph. Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in one or more continuation applications.

Applicant respectfully requests that the §102, §103, and §112 rejections be withdrawn.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

In the July 6 Office Action, it was stated on pages 13-14, as the statement

of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter, that the prior art of record

fails to disclose or suggest the claimed a serverless distributed file system having a

first set, a second set, and a third set of a plurality of computers, wherein each set

of the plurality of computers handle different functions as claimed, in the

conjunction with the remaining, salient claim provisions. Applicant respectfully

points out that not all of the allowed claims include all of these elements. For

example, allowable claim 24 refers to two groups of computers, but does not recite

three sets of computers. Nonetheless, Applicant respectfully submits that claim

24, and the remaining claims, are still allowable over the cited references.

Conclusion

Claims 22-28 and 56-70 are in condition for allowance. Applicant

respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application.

Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney

respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any

such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 10/6/04

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